## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claims 1, 2, 12, 16, 17, and 27 as follows:

- 1 1. (Currently Amended) A process for routing packets through a load balancing array
- 2 of servers across a network in a computer environment, comprising the steps of:
- 3 providing a plurality of load-balancing servers;
- 4 providing at least one back end-Web server;
- 5 wherein one of said load balancing servers is also a scheduler;
- 6 assigning a virtual IP address to a scheduler that is designated as active scheduler for
- 7 a load balancing array;
- 8 wherein all request packets from requesting clients destined for the load balancing
- 9 array are routed through said scheduler via the virtual IP address;
- 10 wherein said scheduler routes and load balances a request packet from a client to a
- 11 load balancing server;
- wherein said load balancing server routes and load balances said request packet to a
- 13 back end Web server;
- wherein said back end Web server's response packet to said request packet is sent to
- 15 said load balancing server; and
- wherein said load balancing server sends said response packet directly to said client.
- 1 2. (Currently Amended) The process of Claim 1, wherein said scheduler is a load
- 2 <u>balancing server and</u> routes and load balances client requests to itself.
- 1 3. (Original) The process of Claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

- 2 detecting the failure of said scheduler; and
- 3 electing one of said load balancing servers as the new scheduler.
- 1 4. (Original) The process of Claim 1, wherein said scheduler detects the failure of
- 2 other load balancing servers; and wherein said scheduler stops routing packets to any failed
- 3 load balancing servers.
- 1 5. (Original) The process of Claim 1, wherein said load balancing server schedules
- 2 sessions to back end Web servers based on a cookie or session ID.
- 6. (Original) The process of Claim 1, wherein said load balancing server uses cookie
- 2 injection to map a client to a specific back end Web server.
- 1 7. (Original) The process of Claim 1, wherein said load balancing server decrypts said
- 2 request packet if it is an SSL session before routing and load balancing said request packet
- 3 to a back end Web server.
- 1 8. (Original) The process of Claim 7, wherein said load balancing server encrypts said
- 2 response packet if it is an SSL session before sending said response packet directly to said
- 3 client.
- 9. (Original) The process of Claim 1, wherein said load balancing server establishes a
- 2 connection with said client and said client keeps said connection alive with said load
- 3 balancing server.

- 1 10. (Original) The process of Claim 9, wherein said load balancing server performs
- 2 URL based scheduling of request packets.
- 1 11. (Original) The process of Claim 9, wherein said load balancing server performs
- 2 hash scheduling of request packets.
- 1 12. (Currently Amended) The process of Claim 1, wherein said load balancing server
- 2 maintains persistent connections in all its paths when required; and wherein said load
- 3 balancing server uses hash group based persistence to maintain its persistence tables.
- 1 13. (Original) The process of Claim 1, wherein said load balancing server detects if a
- 2 back end Web server fails; and wherein said load balancing server stops routing request
- 3 packets to failed back end Web servers.
- 1 14. (Original) The process of Claim 1, further comprising the step of:
- 2 providing a content delivery network; and
- 3 wherein said load balancing server modifies select URLs in the HTML page in said
- 4 response packet to serve them from said content delivery network.
- 1 15. (Original) The process of Claim 14, wherein HTML pages that have modified URLs
- 2 are cached to improve performance.

- 1 16. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for routing packets through a load balancing
- 2 array of servers across a network in a computer environment, comprising:
- 3 a plurality of load balancing servers;
- 4 at least one back end-Web server:
- 5 wherein one of said load balancing servers is also a scheduler;
- 6 assigning a virtual IP address to a scheduler that is designated as active scheduler for
- 7 a load balancing array;
- 8 wherein all request packets from requesting clients destined for the load balancing
- 9 array are routed through said scheduler via the virtual IP address;
- wherein said scheduler routes and load balances a request packet from a client to a
- 11 load balancing server;
- wherein said load balancing server routes and load balances said request packet to a
- 13 back end Web server,
- wherein said back end Web server's response packet to said request packet is sent to
- 15 said load balancing server; and
- wherein said load balancing server sends said response packet directly to said client.
- 1 17. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of Claim 16, wherein said scheduler is a load
- 2 <u>balancing server and</u> routes and load balances client requests to itself.
- 1 18. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 16, further comprising:
- a module for detecting the failure of said scheduler; and
- a module for electing one of said load balancing servers as the new scheduler.

- 1 19. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 16, wherein said scheduler detects the failure of
- 2 other load balancing servers; and wherein said scheduler stops routing packets to any failed
- 3 load balancing servers.
- 1 20. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 16, wherein said load balancing server schedules
- 2 sessions to back end Web servers based on a cookie or session ID.
- 1 21. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 16, wherein said load balancing server uses
- 2 cookie injection to map a client to a specific back end Web server.
- 1 22. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 16, wherein said load balancing server decrypts
- 2 said request packet if it is an SSL session before routing and load balancing said request
- 3 packet to a back end Web server.
- 1 23. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 22, wherein said load balancing server encrypts
- 2 said response packet if it is an SSL session before sending said response packet directly to
- 3 said client.
- 1 24. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 16, wherein said load balancing server establishes
- 2 a connection with said client and said client keeps said connection alive with said load
- 3 balancing server.
- 1 25. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 24, wherein said load balancing server performs
- 2 URL based scheduling of request packets.

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- 1 26. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 24, wherein said load balancing server performs
- 2 hash scheduling of request packets.
- 1 27. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of Claim 16, wherein said load balancing
- 2 server maintains persistent connections in all its paths when required; and wherein said load
- 3 balancing server uses hash group based persistence to maintain its persistence tables.
- 1 28. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 16, wherein said load balancing server detects if a
- 2 back end Web server fails; and wherein said load balancing server stops routing request
- 3 packets to failed back end Web servers.
- 1 29. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 16, further comprising:
- 2 a content delivery network; and
- 3 wherein said load balancing server modifies select URLs in the HTML page in said
- 4 response packet to serve them from said content delivery network.
- 1 30. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 29, wherein HTML pages that have modified
- 2 URLs are cached to improve performance.